

Agency for International Development

§213.6

(4) Claims where the A.I.D. Administrator or his designee determines that the achievement of the purposes of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2151 *et seq.*, or any other provision of law administered by A.I.D. require a different course of action.

§213.3 Subdivision of claims.

A debtor's liability arising from a particular contract or transaction (for example, each individual Supplier's Certificate and Agreement, Form AID 282) shall be considered a single claim for purposes of the monetary ceilings of the FCCS.

§213.4 Late payment, penalty and administrative charges.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by statute, loan agreement or contract, A.I.D. will assess:

(1) *Late payment charges* (interest) on unpaid claims at the higher of the Treasury tax and loan account rate or the prompt payment interest rate established under section 12 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978.

(2) *Penalty charges* at 6 percent a year on any portion of a claim that is delinquent for more than 90 days.

(3) *Administrative charges* to cover the costs of processing and calculating delinquent claims.

(b) Late payment charges shall be computed from the date of *mailing* or *hand delivery* of the notice of the claim and interest requirements.

(c) *Waiver.* (1) Late payment charges are waived on any claim or any portion of a claim which is paid within 30 days after the date on which late payment charges begin to accrue.

(2) The 30 day period may be extended on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that an extension is appropriate.

(3) AID may waive late payment, penalty and administrative charges under the FCCS criteria for the compromise of claims (41 CFR part 103) or upon a determination that collection of the charges would be against equity and good conscience or not in the best interests of the United States, including for example:

(i) Pending consideration of a request for reconsideration, administrative re-

view or waiver under a permissive statute,

(ii) If repayment of the full amount of the debt is made after the date upon which interest and other charges become payable and the estimated costs of recovering the residual balance exceed the amount owed, or

(iii) If collection of interest or other charges would jeopardize collection of the principal of the claim.

§213.5 Demand for payment.

(a) A total of three progressively stronger written demands at approximately 30-day intervals will normally be made, unless a response or other information indicates that additional written demands would either be unnecessary or futile. When necessary to protect the Government's interest, written demand may be preceded by other appropriate actions under the Federal Claims Collection Standards, including immediate referral for litigation and/or offset.

(b) The initial written demand for payment (usually a Bill for Collection, Form AID 7-129) shall inform the debtor of:

(1) The basis for the claim;

(2) The amount of the claim;

(3) The date when payment is due 30 days from date of mailing or hand delivery of the initial demand for payment;

(4) The provision for late payment (interest), penalty and administrative charges, if payment is not received by the due date.

§213.6 Collection by offset.

(a) Collection by administrative offset will be undertaken only on claims which are liquidated or certain in amount. Offset will be used whenever feasible and not otherwise prohibited. Offset is not required to be used in every instance and consideration should be given to the debtor's financial condition and the impact of offset on Agency programs or projects.

(b) The procedures for offset in this section do not apply to the offset of Federal salaries under 5 U.S.C. 5514 or offset under section 640A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2399.

§213.7

(c) Before offset is made, the agency will provide the debtor with written notice informing the debtor of:

(1) The nature and amount of the claim;

(2) The intent of the agency to collect by administrative offset, including asking the assistance of other Federal agencies to help in the offset whenever possible, if the debtor has not made payment by the payment due date or has not made an arrangement for payment by the payment due date;

(3) The right of the debtor to inspect and copy the records of the agency related to the claim;

(4) The right of the debtor to a review of the claim within the agency. If the claim is disputed in full or part, the debtor shall respond to the demand in writing by making a request to the billing office for a review of the claim within the agency by the payment due date stated in the notice. The debtor's written response shall state the basis for the dispute. If only part of the claim is disputed, the undisputed portion must be paid by the date stated in the notice to avoid late payment, penalty and administrative charges. If A.I.D. either sustains or amends its determination, it shall notify the debtor of its intent to collect the claim, with any adjustments based on the debtor's response by administrative offset unless payment is received within 30 days of the mailing of the notification of its decision following a review of the claim.

(5) The right of the debtor to offer to make a written agreement to repay the amount of the claim.

(6) The notice of offset need not include the requirements of paragraph (c) (3), (4) or (5) of this section if the debtor has been informed of the requirements at an earlier stage in the administrative proceedings, e.g., if they were included in a final contracting officer's decision.

(d) A.I.D. will promptly make requests for offset to other agencies known to be holding funds payable to a debtor and, when appropriate, place the name of the debtor on the "List of Contractors Indebted to the United States." A.I.D. will provide instructions for the transfer of funds.

22 CFR Ch. II (4-1-02 Edition)

(e) A.I.D. will promptly process requests for offset from other agencies and transfer funds to the requesting agency upon receipt of the written certification required by §102.3 of the FCCS.

[50 FR 38521, Sept. 23, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 26544, July 24, 1986]

§213.7 Disclosure to consumer reporting agencies and contracts with collection agencies.

(a) A.I.D. may disclose delinquent debts, other than delinquent debts of current Federal employees, to consumer reporting agencies in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(f) and the FCCS.

(b) A.I.D. may enter into contracts with collection agencies in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718 and the FCCS.

Subpart B—Salary Offset Provisions

SOURCE: 51 FR 26544, July 24, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

§213.8 Scope.

(a) This subpart sets forth AID's procedures for the collection of a Federal employee's pay by salary offset to satisfy certain valid and past due debts owed the United States Government.

(b) This subpart applies to:

(1) Current employees of AID and other agencies who owe debts to AID.

(2) Current employees of AID who owe debts to other agencies.

(c) This subpart does not apply to debts or claims arising under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*); the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*); the tariff laws of the United States; or to any case where collection of a debt by salary offset is explicitly provided for or prohibited by another statute (e.g. travel advances in 5 U.S.C. 5705 and employee training expenses 5 U.S.C. 4108).

(d) This subpart does not apply to any adjustment to pay arising out of an employee's election of coverage or a change in coverage under a Federal benefits program requiring periodic deductions from pay or ministerial adjustments in pay, if the amount to be recovered was accumulated over four pay periods or less.

(e) These regulations do not preclude an employee from: